

13 Site Issues 2

Water supply

Water is an essential ingredient in the composting process. It may well have to be added to a compost heap, especially where shredded prunings and other rather dry ingredients have been used in quantity. Where a site is connected to the mains, an outside tap or standpipe should be provided near to the operations.

Wherever possible collect water runoff from roofs in water butts – though this supply is unlikely to last long in dry months.

Pollution control

The aim of a Community Composting project is to reduce pollution – so it is important that the site does not cause any itself!

A prime concern is 'leachate' – a nutrient-rich liquid which can seep out of compost and manure heaps. This will usually simply soak away into the soil, but where the site is close to a stream, pond or other watercourse, it could pollute the water. Leachate is most likely to be produced by heaps containing a lot of manure, grass mowings or food scraps. A rainproof cover can reduce the problem. Contact your local Environment Agency office for advice before accepting a Community Composting site.

Security fencing

To prevent vandalism, theft and fly-tipping, it may be necessary to install security fencing or other means of keeping people off the site.

Site contacts

It is important to have a named person (or several people) who can be contacted regarding the site when it is closed.

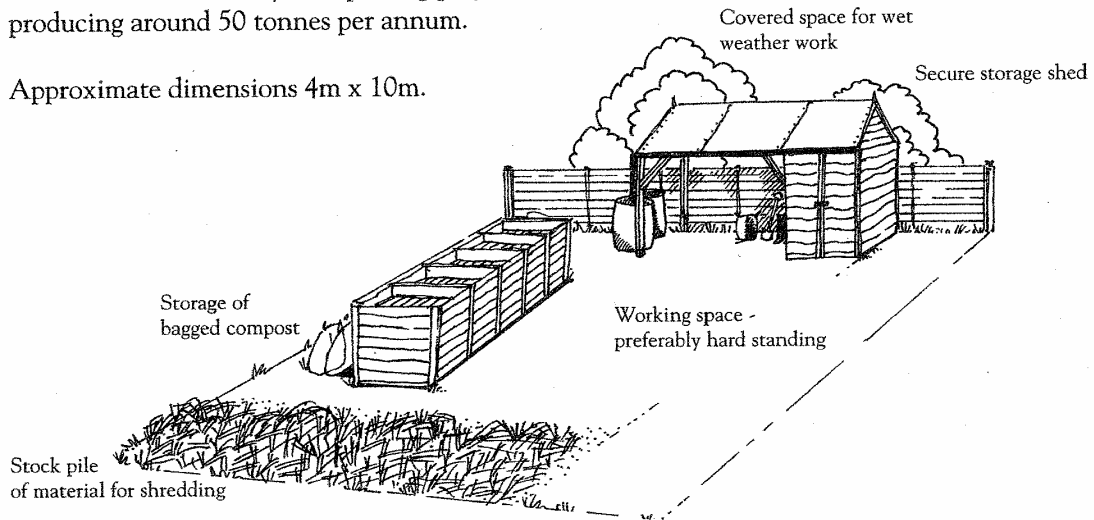
Exit strategy

The group should bear in mind that they are not likely to be on the site forever. From the start, consideration must be given to the process of vacating the site. Issues to address include disposal of stored, composting, and finished materials; disposal of tools and equipment; disposal of buildings and constructions; disposal of financial assets; restoration of land) if required as a condition of lease). Identify a timescale over which the scheme could be wound down.

Site layout

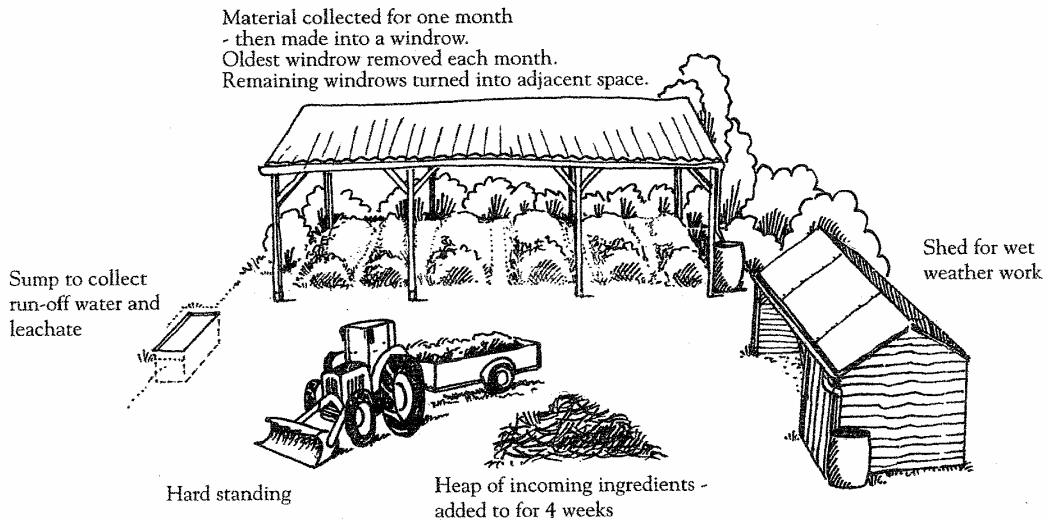
Small scale Community Composting project
producing around 50 tonnes per annum.

Approximate dimensions 4m x 10m.



Site layout

Larger scale Community
Composting project



Tools and machinery

The following tools, machinery, and other equipment are used by existing Community Composting projects. What an individual project actually needs will depend on the scale of the enterprise.

Hand tools

Spades	Shovels
Garden forks	Manure / stable fork
Pitch fork	Secateurs
Loppers	Yard broom
Rakes	Wheelbarrows

Machinery

Shredder	Sieve / screen
Trailer	Collection vehicle
Tractor	

Safety equipment

Goggles	Ear protectors
Hard hats	Tough gloves / gauntlets
Protective boots	

Other

- Hosepipe
- Watering cans
- Tarpaulins / plastic sheet
- Kettle for tea
- Plastic bags for compost

Useful contacts

- Environment Agency